

Local RESTORE Council  
January 13, 2014  
Milton, Florida

Present: Chairman Lane Lynchard, and members Jim Melvin, Shon Owens, Cal Bodenstein, Donna Tucker, Tony Alexander, Brian Watkins, Dave Robau, Rob Williamson, and Buzz Eddy. Also present were the County Administrator (Hunter Walker), the County Engineer (Roger Blaylock), and the County Attorney (Angela Jones). The meeting was called to order by Lynchard at the Santa Rosa County Administrative Complex, Board Room, at approximately 3:00 p.m.

Lynchard moved approval without objection of the December 9, 2013 meeting minutes.

Update on NRDA, RESTORE, and Gulf Consortium

Walker said the County was recently contacted by the Department of Treasury. He said an initial interview, between County staff and Department of Treasury, has been scheduled for Wednesday, January 22, 2014. He said this meeting will be to discuss and review Santa Rosa County's financial auditing procedures and management capabilities.

Jeff Helms (Atkins North America, Inc.) gave a power point presentation to the Council (Attachment in file). He said recently the United States 5<sup>th</sup> District Court upheld Judge Barbier's decision regarding the BP multibillion-dollar private claim settlement. Helms said he feels this was a reasonable decision by the Court, in this particular case. He said the Gulf Consortium will hold its next meeting on January 24, 2014. Helms said the public comment period for NRDA (Natural Resource Damage Assessment) projects has been extended to February 19th. He said there will be a NRDA public meeting on January 28, 2014 at the Pensacola Bay Center beginning at 6:30 p.m.

He thanked Jessica Koelsch (National Wildlife Federation) for the spreadsheet of information she provided regarding an overview of Florida's twenty-three coastal counties' planning process under the direct allocation of RESTORE Act funds (Attachment in file). He said this information will be posted on the RESTORE webpage and sent to each Council member (Attachment in file).

Draft Project Criteria

There was brief discussion of the Santa Rosa County Project Criteria.

**Williamson moved approval of the project criteria. Owens seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Draft Application Format

Helms said Koelsch put together a summary of needs for the multi-year implementation plan, based on the Department of Treasury guidelines/requirements. He thanked Koelsch and further discussed this information. Helms said the Council will need to make sure the grant application is complete and provides all information, so that in turn this information is also included in the multi-year implementation plan that will be submitted to the Department of Treasury. He gave an overview of the current draft grant application (Attachment in file). Helms said there are a number of details, regarding the application that he will need to evaluate with Walker and County staff.

Helms asked the Council their thoughts of the idea of an applicant wanting to submit a project summary for review, prior to doing all the narrative and support data. He said this may be a way to solicit information, and get it filtered, prior to the applicant exhausting a lot of other effort and resources to put the entire application together. Lynchard said he feels the idea is reasonable. He said if someone submits a project summary, and it garners support from this Council, another larger group would likely step up to the plate and help flesh out the remaining details of the application.

Helms said he feels if someone submits an economic development project and are requesting incentives from the State; it would be helpful if they would submit the State application along with the Santa Rosa County RESTORE Council application. He said he is currently creating a grading scale which will help with reviewing projects. He said he recommends the Council grade a few sample projects, when the grading scale is completed, in order to see how the criteria tests out.

2014 Schedule/Timeline

Helms reviewed the suggested 2014 Santa Rosa County RESTORE Timeline (Attachment in file). Lynchard said he feels this is a good timeline. Melvin said it would be helpful to see a global list of all active grants which are flowing through the RESTORE process. Helms said this information should be posted on the RESTORE website but he will send this to Melvin.

Helms said he is hoping the Department of Treasury guidelines will be issued by the end of April. He said the Council needs to start making progress on the watershed plan. Helms said this includes the dirt road paving, drainage projects etc. He said the goal for the watershed plan is to make sure every project listed is also in the Department of Environmental Protection portal. Helms said this will make these projects eligible for buckets 2 and 3. He said the RESTORE Council needs to have a draft multi-year implementation plan by August.

Lynchard said the Council will need to start hearing presentations from interested groups beginning now through May 1<sup>st</sup>. He said any of the interested groups may start asking for a presentation time now for February, March and April meetings. Lynchard said the Council will need to set some guidelines for presentations, ten days prior to the next meeting, in order to get these distributed for review. He said the requests will need to go through the County Administrator's office. Lynchard said he feels the Council should start planning to hold some of the RESTORE meetings in other parts of the County.

Williamson asked if there is a mechanism in place that would rank projects higher, if the project includes criteria across different categories. Helms said there are four categories in order for maximum flexibility.

Tucker asked if the Council is looking for organizations or individuals to make presentations. Lynchard said the Council is looking for organizations, which may want to have input on the process. Helms said he feels it is important that the presentations are meaningful and specific to Santa Rosa County. Williamson asked if the opportunity to give presentations will be published. Lynchard said this information will be posted on the County's RESTORE website. Tucker said she feels this information should also be published to the Chambers of Commerce.

Walker said he will have the Public Information Officer post a synopsis of the Council's vision regarding the presentations and the project criteria on the County's RESTORE webpage

#### Public Forum

Jessica Koelsch, NWF, said Santa Rosa County is ahead on the curve on so many levels with the RESTORE process. She said she is glad the Council is looking into all of the pots of funding. Koelsch said she is in favor of recommending the Council start with the Transocean money because BP money could be years down the road.

Sonya Negley said she would like the Council to consider weighted advantages for areas that were directly impacted by the oil spill. She said she suggests including "sustainability" in all of the criteria categories. She said sustainability is listed in the environmental criteria but not the others.

#### Next meeting

The next RESTORE Council meeting will be held February 10, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.

#### Adjournment

There being no further business to come before this Council at this time, the meeting adjourned.

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By: Lane Lynchard, Chairman